

Claim ~~107~~¹ (Amended)

[The method of claim 106, wherein said determining comprises:] A method of controlling closing times in an electronic auction, comprising:

- E1
- (a) setting a first closing time for a first lot and a second closing time for a second lot;
 - (b) determining whether an overtime trigger condition occurs prior to said first closing time, and if so, adding a first overtime interval to said first closing time;
 - (c) calculating a first time interval between said extended first closing time and said second closing time; [and]
 - (d) determining whether said first time interval is less than a second time interval; and
 - (e) extending said second closing time in accordance with step (d).

Claim ~~109~~² (Amended)

E2

The method of claim ~~107~~¹, wherein [said first time interval is less than said second time interval, and said extending second closing time] step (e) comprises adding a second overtime interval to said second closing time.

Claim ~~112~~³ (Amended)

E3

[The method of claim 106:] A method of controlling closing times in an electronic auction, comprising:

- (a) setting a first closing time for a first lot and a second closing time for a second lot;

(b) determining whether an overtime trigger condition occurs prior to said first closing time, wherein said overtime condition is at least one of a group comprising a ranking criterion, a quality criterion and a bid group characteristic;

63 (c) adding a first overtime interval to said first closing time;

(d) determining whether to extend said second closing time based on said extended first closing time; and

(e) extending said second closing time in accordance with step (d).

Claim 119: 1st (Amended)

64 [The machine-readable medium of claim 118, wherein said determining comprises:] A machine-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to control closing times in an electronic auction, by performing:

(a) setting a first closing time for a first lot and a second closing time for a second lot;

(b) determining whether an overtime trigger condition occurs prior to said first closing time, and if so, adding a first overtime interval to said first closing time;

(c) calculating a first time interval between said extended first closing time and said second closing time; [and]

(d) determining whether said first time interval is less than a second time interval; and

(e) extending said second closing time in accordance with (d).

Claim 121: ¹⁰12 (Amended)

ES The machine-readable medium of claim ¹⁰119, wherein [said first time interval is less than said second time interval, and said extending second closing time] step (e) comprises adding a second overtime interval to said second closing time.

Claim 124: ¹⁵15 (Amended)

EB [The machine-readable medium of claim 118,] A machine-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to control closing times in an electronic auction, by performing:

- (a) setting a first closing time for a first lot and a second closing time for a second lot;
- (b) determining whether an overtime trigger condition occurs prior to said first closing time, wherein said overtime condition is at least one of a group comprising a ranking criterion, a quality criterion and a bid group characteristic;
- (c) adding a first overtime interval to said first closing time;
- (d) determining whether to extend said second closing time based on said extended first closing time; and
- (e) extending said second closing time in accordance with (d).

Claim 128: ¹⁹19 (Amended)

EF [The machine-readable medium of claim 117, further comprising:] A machine-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to control closing times in an electronic auction, by performing: